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THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Letter dated 26 August 1998 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the
Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination
and Protection of Minorities

I am addressing you with reference to Albania's representative abusing her right in taking the floor at the Sub-Commission to voice unfounded and malicious allegations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which allegations we resolutely reject, instead of commenting on the issues on the agenda.

The representative of Albania produced false notions of an alleged humanitarian disaster, excessive use of force and alleged crimes against the members of the Albanian national minority in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija.

In doing so, the Albanian representative is misleading international public opinion, while denouncing the authorities of Serbia and FR Yugoslavia for the legitimate measures taken against terrorists in Kosovo and Metohija.

There is no mention in these accusations of any of the terrorist acts perpetrated on a daily basis by the so-called "Kosovo Liberation Army": its perfidious killing and kidnapping of innocent civilians - large numbers of ethnic Albanians included - its raping of women, its committing torture and

executions, its forcibly drafting the entire male population of villages, its demolishing of and putting fire to settlements upon their "liberation", its blowing up of water supply systems, transformer stations and industrial plants employing thousands of ethnic Albanians, Serbs, Montenegrins and Muslims.

No country in the world tolerates killing and kidnapping of its population, or the planting of mines. The truth is that, in view of the nature and proportions of such terror, the security forces have demonstrated, and are still demonstrating, a high level of restraint.

The Government of Albania fails to take any measures to thwart the activities launched on its territory by terrorist gangs and, instead, vehemently instigates terrorism and terrorist attacks on Yugoslavia also via statements pronounced by its officials and leaders.

The Albanian representative deliberately avoided the point that Albania has evolved into a centre for fostering all types of terrorist groups and organizations, hosting international organized crime, serving as a base for committing terrorist actions and brutal attacks on the territory of FR Yugoslavia. Almost on a daily basis, often assisted by the Albanian military and police, small or larger groups of heavily armed terrorists make attempts to enter illegally the territory of FR Yugoslavia.

As evidence of this, Mr. Millo, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania, in a recent interview, admitted that Albania has offered refuge to terrorists on its territory. It is also well known that terrorists are recruited, organized, armed and trained in the assembly points in Bairam Curi, Tropoje and Kuks.

Allow me to illustrate the Albanian authorities' tolerance of terrorist actions by the event of 18 August, when terrorists bombarded an Orthodox church in Scutari, damaging it substantially, in particular its altar and iconostasis. This brutal, senseless terrorist attack against the members of the Serb and Montenegrin minorities in Albania is, obviously, a consequence of growing anti-Serb and anti-Yugoslav feelings, inspired by those forces in Albania which advocate secession of segments of the territory of Serbia, along with terrorism as a means of reaching their aims. The incident also demonstrated that the Albanian authorities do not wish to suppress terrorism. This statement is contained in the protest note submitted to the Embassy of Albania in Belgrade on 21 August, with the OSCE headquarters in Vienna, and Austria, as the current Chair of the EU, being apprised as well.

The willingness of the Albanian authorities to cooperate in caring for the refugees who have left their homes under terrorist threats, having allegedly found refuge in northern Albania at present, is false. If it were so, the Albanian authorities would have responded positively to the Yugoslav Government's proposal for Ms. Bratislava Morina, the Commissioner for Refugees of Serbia, to go to Albania and appeal to the refugees to return to their homes, the authorities of Serbia and FR Yugoslavia guaranteeing their safety and other conditions indispensable for their return.

The suggestion made by the Albanian representative for his country to "help" in solving political and humanitarian problems in Kosovo and Metohija is sheer, provocative cynicism, since Albania is not capable of finding a way out of its own situation, which is disastrous owing to the policy pursued by its present political leaders.

The determination of FR Yugoslavia to consistently and strictly implement the Moscow statement in its entirety is well known. The State delegation keeps repeating its appeals for an unconditional dialogue aimed at resolving all the problems in Kosovo and Metohija. Even though the representatives of ethnic Albanian political parties have composed a new delegation, the dialogue has not started yet, since it is obvious that the Kosovo and Metohija ethnic Albanian political leaders do not favour a peaceful solution.

I would ask you, Mr. Chairman, to have this letter published as an official document under the Sub-Commission agenda item 9.

(Signed) Mr. Miroslav MILOŠEVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.